

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCSE-00 SCA-01 /086 W
----- 081411

R 311231Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDN 7218

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 295

UNCLAS GABORONE 1491

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, US, BC

SUBJ: REGIONAL PRESS ON USG STATEMENT TO UN ON RHODESIAN BORDER
INCIDENT

REF: (A) USUN 5469 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 253191

1. JOHANNESBURG STAR OF OCTOBER 29 REPORTS U.S. STATEMENT ON
RHODESIA PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT TO UN FOURTH COMMITTEE.
TEXT OF ARTICLE, ENTITLED "U.S. WARNS SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE,"
IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WARNED THAT IT WOULD TAKE ACTION
AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVING IN THE MILITARY FORCES OF
THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, POSSIBLY TO THE EXTENT OF WITHDRAWING
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THEIR UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.

THE WARNING WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE COMMITTEE, MR. TAPLEY BENNETT, FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF TWO AMERICANS IN BOTSWANA WHO ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN ON A MISSION FOR THE RHODESIAN SPECIAL BRANCH.

BOTH MEN HAVE BEEN CONVICTED IN BOTSWANA ON CHARGES OF BEING IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS.

"MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPROVE OF SERVICE BY ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN IN THE FORCES OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME.

"OUR LAWS PROVIDE THAT ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN ENLISTING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF ANOTHER COUNTRY RUNS THE RISK OF LOSING HIS UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP, AS WELL AS BEING LIABLE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION" MR. BENNETT'S LETTER SAID.

THE LETTER FOLLOWS REQUESTS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION ON THE ALLEGED SERVICE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AS MERCENARIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITH A VIEW TO TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THEM ON THEIR RETURN HOME. END QUOTE.

2. OCTOBER 30 BULAWAYO (RHODESIA) CHRONICLE CARRIES VIRTUALLY THE SAME ARTICLE UNDER TITLE "DON'T FIGHT FOR RHODESIAN WARNING TO U.S. CITIZENS." HOWEVER, MENTION OF TWO AMERICANS ARRESTED IN BOTSWANA AND THEIR OSTENSIBLE MISSION HERE IS OMITTED FROM CHRONICLE ARTICLE.
THOMSEN

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